

Fall 2007

Center for Catholic Education Newsletter, Fall 2007

University of Dayton

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CENTER for CATHOLIC EDUCATION

FALL 2007

OUR VISION, OUR MISSION

Hello! What an eventful year it has been so far! We said, "Congratulations and we will miss you!" to our former director, Bro. Ed Brink. We hope to continue the good work he began.

The Center for Catholic Education at the University of Dayton directs the Lalanne Program, oversees the Urban Child Development Resource Center (UCDRC), coordinates multiple professional

development programs for local Catholic schools, and participates in state and national conferences aligned with Catholic education, while the Director for Marianist Educational Studies and Partnerships provides guidance in our Marianist mission.

With additions to our staff and our continued enthusiasm, we hope to strive toward our vision and our mission with new fervor!

Our Vision: *To be a servant-leader in working with Catholic educators to foster excellence in Catholic schools.*

Our Mission: *To contribute to the overall mission of the Church through collaboration, research, and creative action; and to provide Catholic schools with programs and services that enhance the Church's mission to evangelize,*

Mark your calendars!

- *Teaching as Ministry Workshop*
November 8-11, 2007
- *St. Remy's Initiative*
November 13, 2007
- *Lalanne Retreat*
December 7-9, 2007
- **Lalanne applications due!!!**
January 22, 2008
- *Rogus Lecture*
March 5, 2008

THE STAFF THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE

Susan Ferguson **Director, Center for Catholic Education**



Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Susan Ferguson attended Byzantine Catholic High School. She earned her Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education and her Masters

Degree in School Psychology at the University of Dayton.

In 1990, Susan came to the University of Dayton as an instructor for the Department of Teacher Education. She has provided professional development to multiple elementary and high school faculties in the Dayton area over the past 17 years.

Cooperatively with Dr. Shauna Adams, Susan also provided three, one-year long Best Practice workshops for teachers in Dayton area Catholic schools. She has also served as a consultant on the St. Remy Initiative for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

On July 1, 2007, Susan accepted the post as Director of the Center for Catholic Education.

Barb Miller
Administrative Assistant



Barbara Miller is the Administrative Assistant to the Center for Catholic Education. Prior to working at the Center, Barb served as Publications Coordinator at St. Charles Parish in

Kettering, Ohio.

Other work experience includes administrative/secretarial positions in data processing, marketing, and medical environments. Barb attends St. Helen Parish in Riverside.

Her two children have attended Holy Family School, St. Helen School, Carroll High School, and the University of Dayton. She feels her children have received an excellent education and spiritual guidance during their Catholic school experience.

"It is an honor to be part of the wonderful programs that CCE is developing and implementing to support the present and future educators of our Catholic schools."

LALANNE

Debra Sanderman
Director, Lalanne

Debra Sanderman is a 1995 graduate of Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton, Ohio, and a 1999 graduate of the University of Kentucky, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Education.



She was a member of the first Lalanne community (1999-2001), during which time she earned a Master of Science degree in Education with a concentration in School Counseling from the University of Dayton.

She taught English at her Alma Mater, C-J. In the Fall of 2004, she moved into the guidance office, where she remained until August 2007, when she became the Director of Lalanne.

"I look forward to the opportunity to work with Lalanne teachers as they grow, both professionally and spiritually. One of the most beneficial parts of Lalanne is the community in which a Lalanne teacher lives, and the support they receive from both the Lalanne Staff at the University of Dayton and the colleagues at the schools where they teach."

Jacinta Mergler
Coordinator of Teacher Activities, Lalanne

Jacinta Mergler joined the Lalanne staff as the Coordinator of Teacher Activities in the summer of 2003. Jacinta has over 20 years of experience working in urban Catholic schools in Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio.



Jacinta works with Debra to plan and help facilitate the summer orientation program and December retreat. She also supervises Lalanne's participation in AmeriCorps.

"It is a blessing to continue to serve Catholic schools through my work in Lalanne. The best part of my job is serving as a mentor to young teachers as they begin their teaching careers, working together through their first year struggles: everything from writing daily lesson plans to brainstorming classroom management techniques. Their enthusiasm and commitment to be Catholic educators is a beacon of hope in today's Church."



URBAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Linda W. Russell
Director, UCDRC

Linda W. Russell is the Director for the UCDRC. She has been with UCDRC since its inception, providing mental health and prevention services to urban Catholic schools. Linda is a licensed professional clinical counselor who is currently splitting her time between the administration of UCDRC and direct service to Mary Queen of Peace School, Homewood Campus.

Prior to coming to UCDRC, Linda served as the Director of Community Services at Oesterlen Services for Youth. She presently serves as a board member of the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Clark, Greene, and Madison Counties.

Linda began her professional career as a teacher. She has taught in Louisiana, North Carolina, and for the Department of Defense. She is married to Alan and they have two children: Chad and Anna.



Rhonda H. Mercks
Site Coordinator, UCDRC

Rhonda H. Mercks is the Site Coordinator for the UCDRC at Mary Queen of Peace Catholic School. Rhonda serves both campuses: Homewood and Gramont.

As the site coordinator, she provides prevention counseling, support to the students and educational staff, and teaches the Second Step Program, which allows students to learn new ways to handle personal conflicts. Prior to her current position, Rhonda worked at South Community, Inc. where she worked as a therapist in an education program at a local high school.

She received both her Bachelors and Masters of Science degree from Wright State University. At the University of Dayton she earned her independent licensure in mental health counseling. Throughout her career, Rhonda has worked predominantly as a mental health counselor in school based programs.



RESOURCE CENTER

Sandra Eisenhut
Counselor, UCDRC



Sandy Eisenhut has been with the UCDRC since 2004. She provides mental health and prevention services to urban Catholic schools. Sandy has a Masters Degree and is a licensed social worker, and works at Our Lady of the Rosary part-time. Prior to coming to UCDRC, Sandy worked at Samaritan Behavioral Health Inc. providing mental

health assessments and alcohol and drug assessments to both adults and children, who are then referred to the appropriate treatment center.

Sandy began her professional mental health career at The Community Network in Greene County in 1992, where she provided crisis intervention services to all Greene County adults and children, including alcohol and drug assessments, screening for hospitalizations and counseling for all populations. Before her professional career, Sandy was an NAIA women's soccer coach.

Sandy is married to James Daugherty. Together they have four grown children and nine grandchildren.



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George J. Lisjak **Director, Marianist Educational Studies** **and Partnerships**



As Director of Marianist Educational Studies and Partnerships for the Marianist Province of the U.S., George J. Lisjak works in support of Marianist education at the 18 secondary schools and three universities of the province.

His position involves a wide variety of activities, including research, program

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development and implementation, conducting school visits, and developing special projects. Among his responsibilities is coordinating of the Marianist Education Consortium (M.E.C.) workshops held each summer at the University of Dayton and working with the board of the Association of Marianist Universities (A.M.U.).

George holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Duquesne University. He spent 27 years as a teacher and principal at North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, PA.

He and his wife, Margaret, who is the Administrative Associate to the Dean of the School of Business Administration at U.D., are committed Lay Marianists. They have three children: Jessica, Sarah, and Abigail.